NORTH – SOUTH KOREA

Red Cross Talks

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Preliminary Talks between North and South Korean Red Cross Organizations Closes with Great Success Thanks to Sincere Efforts of Our Side

The preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross organizations which had progressed amid the great expectation and concern of the entire people of north and south Korea and the peace-loving people the world over successfully closed with their 25th meeting on August 11.

The preliminary talks dropped the curtain after agreeing upon other procedural matters of the full-dress talks and fixing the date for the first session of the full-dress talks, the last items for discussion at the preliminary talks, on the basis of the earlier successful agreement on the venue and agenda of the full-dress talks and the composition of the delegations to the full-dress talks.

The successful conclusion of the preliminary talks at a time when the whole land of three thousand *ri* is aboil with ardent desire for reunification in support of the three principles of national reunification laid down by the respected and beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the north-south joint statement based on them, is another important, stirring event for our people.

The meeting began with the examination of the points agreed upon at the working-level meetings between the two sides concerning other procedural matters of the full-dress talks and its date.

The spokesmen of the delegations of the two sides respectively read the texts of agreement.

A wave of delight swept the conference room inside and out when it was announced through the texts of agreement that the first session of the full-dress talks between the Red Cross organizations of the north and the south would open in Pyongyang. This is a clear proof that the venue of the first session was chosen most properly and that it is the desire of all the compatriots of the north and the south to see the historic first session opened in Pyongyang, both in view of the atmosphere for its opening and in view of the preparations made for the talks.

Then the texts of agreement were exchanged between the two sides at the meeting.

Kim Tae Hui, head of the delegation of our side, made a speech declaring the historic preliminary talks closed.

It is, he stressed, of great significance in mitigating the sufferings of the compatriots caused by division and achieving the independent, peaceful reunification of the country that the place and date of the first session of the full-dress talks the entire Korean people had eagerly awaited were agreed upon and the discussion of the items on the agenda was brought to a successful conclusion. He warmly congratulated the delegates of the Red Cross organizations of the north and the south and all other persons concerned who had devoted their efforts to the successful conclusion of the preliminary talks and opening of the full-dress talks, and he expressed thanks to the entire people and men of the press of the north and the south for having actively supported and encouraged the work of the talks and to the world peace-loving people and foreign reporters who had wished success to the north-south Red Cross talks.

Many dialogues and opinions which the delegates of the Red Cross organizations of the north and the south have exchanged during the one year since they sat down together amid the jubilation and joy of the whole nation have been very useful for alleviating the sufferings of the compatriots caused by split and were directly linked with the work for pulling down the artificial barrier and hewing the path of reunification, said the head of the delegation. He referred in detail to the precious successes made at the talks and to the sincere efforts of the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society for the successes.

He said:

The delegation of our side, above all, attached great significance to the agenda of the full-dress talks and saw to it that it was so settled as to create favorable conditions for alleviating the sufferings of the compatriots of the north and the south as comprehensively as possible and, furthermore, paving the way for the independent, peaceful reunification of the country.

As for the question of the composition of the delegations to the full-dress talks, the delegation of our side proposed to let advisers accompany the delegations, so that the north and south Red Cross organizations might pool efforts and enlist the active support and cooperation of the authorities, political and public circles and all strata of the people of the north and the south in the important and vast work of mitigating the sufferings of the compatriots separated in the north and the south.

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Delegates of both sides exchange the texts of agreement at the 25th sitting of the preliminary talks

The First Session of Red Cross Full-dress Talks Will Open in Pyongyang on August 30

Agreement Reached on Other Procedural Matters of the Full-dress Talks and Question of Its Opening Date at the 25th Sitting of the North-South Korea Red Cross Preliminary Talks

The 25th sitting of the preliminary talks between the delegations of the DPRK Red Cross Society and the south Korean Red Cross Society was held at Panmunjom on August 11.

At the sitting the two sides agreed upon, confirmed and made public the other procedural matters of the full-dress talks and the question of its opening date which had been discussed at the working-level meetings held on three occasions at the proposal of the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society put forward at the 24th sitting.

The text of agreement made public at the sitting noted first that both sides, guided by the spirit of the historic north-south joint statement and keeping the stand and principle of one side inviting the other, shall receive the delegation and press corps of the other side and ensure their personal security in a responsible manner.

The first session of the north-south Red Cross full-dress talks shall be held in Pyongyang and the second session in Seoul, the agreement pointed out, and went on:

The delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society made a proposal to invite the heads or their deputies representing the political parties and public organizations of the north and the south to the initial meetings of the full-dress talks in Pyongyang and Seoul, but both sides decided to reserve this question, no agreement being reached between them.

In connection with the question of the personal security of the personnel of the other side who participate in the full-dress talks, the agreement said that both sides shall assume full responsibility for their personal security and ensure the inviolability of all documents, photographs, films, recorded tapes, public information materials and all the other necessary effects carried by them.

The agreement touched on the decision that both sides shall designate Panmunjom as the point of passage of their travelling personnel and shall set up the "Red Cross Panmunjom liaison offices" manned by one chief liaison representative and a necessary number of the liaison representatives of the Red Cross society of each side to undertake and conduct the work related to the passage of the personnel of both sides through Panmunjom.

Both sides decided that they shall hand each time to the other side the lists of the names, sexes and ranks of the personnel traveling to and from the north and south as well as their photographs three days before the departure from their respective areas and that the traveling personnel shall carry with them credentials and/or identification cards issued by the Red Cross central bodies of their respective sides.

Both sides agreed with each other that they shall stay in the area of the other side for four to six days or so each time and may inform the other side of their opinions on other matters related to the schedule of each talks and their stay and consult with each other about them.

Referring to the question of insignia, the agreement pointed out that the members of the delegations, advisers and suites of both sides shall wear the Red Cross badges of their respective sides, that the members of the press corps shall wear the Red Cross badges of their respective sides and arm bands with the letters "Press" on one colour cloth chosen by each side and that the Red Cross flags be attached to the means of transportation all alike.

The agreement dwelt on the decision that both sides shall be fully responsible for providing convenient and safe routes and means of traffic and transport to the personnel of the other side entering its area and shall open a total of 20 circuits of wire telegraph and telephone for prompt and correct communications between the north and south.

Both sides decided that in order to maintain permanent communication related to the proceedings of the full-dress talks they shall keep 2 direct telephone circuits permanently operating between the central bodies of the north and south Red Cross societies (Pyongyang and Seoul).

Both sides decided to follow the guide of the inviter side in their activities outside the area of the conference hall.

Both sides agreed that the managing side of the conference hall shall be responsible for providing the facilities and devices and also install ample communication facilities so that the personnel of the other side may immediately get in toutch with their side from the conference hall.

Both sides decided that they shall record the proceedings of the sessions with recorders and in shorthand and shall provide two circuits for the relay of recording so that the delegation operating in the area of the other side may relay recording to its Red Cross central body from the conference hall.

They agreed that they shall hold the full-dress talks behind closed doors, and, in case of need, make it open to the public and that the initial meetings to be held in Pyongyang and Seoul shall be open to the public.

With regard to the question of report, both sides reached an agreement that they shall not slander each other true to the spirit of the historic north-south joint statement dated July 4, 1972, but shall strictly abide by the principle of truthfulness, honesty and faith so that the report may help towards ensuring the successful progress of the talks and deepening trust and understanding between the north and south.

Both sides agreed that they shall fix the number of newsmen respectively at 20 which is considered necessary for the successful report of the Red Cross talks and that the managing side of the conference hall may invite foreign correspondents active in its area and other foreign journalists.

The delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society, the agreement pointed out, proposed that the advisers be allowed to speak of the specified problems at the talks but this matter was reserved as no agreement was reached between the two sides.

Both sides also agreed with each other that they shall jointly draft and sign the texts of agreement and publish them simultaneously.

Both sides decided that each of them shall offer to the personnel of the other side staying in its area the greatest possible conveniences in lodgings, meals, traffic and transport, communications, medical assistance and reporting of the talks and shall bear all the expenses for holding talks, lodgings, meals, transportation, telegraph and telephone service, press activities, medical care, welfare service and publications in the area of its side.

The two sides agreed with each other that the number of suites travelling to and from the north and south shall be fixed at not more than 20 and the total number of the personnel travelling to and from the north and south be fixed at not more than 54.

Both sides shall hold the first session of the full-dress talks in Pyongyang at 10:00 on August 30, 1972 and the second session in Seoul at 10:00 on September 13, 1972 and the date for the subsequent sessions shall be agreed upon by the delegations of the two sides to the full-dress talks, said the agreement, and pointed out in conclusion:

All the matters as agreed on as above, true to the spirit of the north-south joint statement dated July 4, 1972, will ensure the successful progress of the sessions of the north-south Red Cross full-dress talks to be held in Pyongyang and Seoul alternately and thus will make much for promoting the national rapprochement and the great national unity and accelerating the independent peaceful reunification of the country.

How the North-South Red Cross Preliminary Talks Proceeded

A breakthrough was made and a bright prospect opened for national reunification which has been aspired after so ardently by all the fellow countrymen in the land of three thousand *ri* and this set their hearts ablaze with a greater desire to see the country reunified. At such a moment the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross organizations successfully wound up on August 11 its task of preparing for the full-dress talks.

The messengers of the north and south Korean Red Cross organizations got in touth with each other for the first time on August 20 last year and, later on, four more contacts were made between them. The preliminary talks were held on 25 occasions with the expectation and best wishes of the whole nation. In this course, the two sides sometimes had a heated discussion on account of the dissenting views but, in the long run, today's success has come thanks to the just stand and sincere efforts of the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to extensively alleviate as soon as possible the sufferings of the families, relatives and friends separated from each other in the north and the south.

The full-dress talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross organizations is to be opened soon reflecting the earnest desire of all the Korean people and with their great attention focussed on it. Now, let us review the course of the preliminary talks in the past one year.

The north-south Korean Red Cross preliminary talks began on September 20 last year.

That day, all the people in north and south Korea sincerely wished an earliest success of the talks, congratulated the first sitting with joy and emotion and closely followed the whole proceeding of the discussion of the questions raised.

The basic task of the preliminary talks which opened with the great expectation and concern of the whole nation was to discuss and agree upon the questions pertaining to the venue, date and agenda of the full-dress talks to convene it and make it a success at the earliest date so as to help towards realization of free visits and correspondence between the families, relatives and friends dispersed in the north and the south and positively live up to the fervent hope and expectation of all the compatriots in the north and the south who are anxious to know their whereabouts.

At the first and second sittings of the preliminary talks, an agreement was reached through discussion on a series of matters designed for the successful working of the talks.

At the first sitting both sides agreed that the preliminary talks shall be held at the conference hall of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom and a telephone line be set up in the joint security area at Panmunjom for liaison between the two sides during recess.

A direct telephone line linking the permanent liaison offices of both sides was set up on September 22, and it began to carry the voices communicating between the north and the south.

It was indeed an event of great significance in view of the fact that a way had just been opened for contact and dialogue, breaking through the barrier which blocked the north-south route for 26 years.

At the second sitting of the preliminary talks the following written agreement was made public in accordance with an identity of views on the procedural matters of the preliminary talks and the questions to be taken up for discussion at the talks:

1. The delegations of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the South Korean Red Cross Society have discussed and agreed upon the procedural matters to successfully steer the preliminary talks.
2. The questions to be discussed at the preliminary talks for the full-dress talks and the order of priority have been decided upon as below:

   First, the question of the venue of the full-dress talks,

   Second, the question of the date of the full-dress talks,

   Third, the question of the agenda of the full-dress talks,

   Fourth, the question of the composition of the delegations to the full-dress talks,

   Fifth, other procedural matters of the full-dress talks.

On the basis of this agreement, discussion of the items began according to the order of priority at the third sitting of the preliminary talks on October 6, 1971.

The Question of the Venue of the Full-dress Talks: It was agreed to hold the full-dress talks in Pyongyang and Seoul alternately, because at the third sitting of the preliminary talks the south Korean side accepted, though late, the invariable proposal of our side to have north-south contact and dialogue in Pyongyang and Seoul.

The Question of the Date of the Full-dress Talks: As for this question, an agreement was reached at the third sitting on the problem of principle that the earlier the full-dress talks opens, the better it is and that its definite date was to be discussed and fixed at the subsequent sittings of the preliminary talks, and the discussion lasted till the sixth sitting through the fourth and fifth sittings. At the fourth sitting the Red Cross delegation of our side, taking the initiative proposed to the south Korean side that the preliminary talks be brought to conclusion within October 1971 and that the full-dress talks be opened at 10:00 on December 10. However, due to the opposition of the south Korean side, no agreement was made and there was no alternative but to go over to the discussion of the next item.

The Red Cross delegation of our side again proposed at the 23rd sitting that the full-dress talks be opened in Pyongyang on August 5, 1972, and the south Korean Red Cross delegation agreed to this. But it could not be held at the scheduled date because much time had been spent in the discussion concerning other matters of procedure for the full-dress talks. As to the question of the date of the full-dress talks, it was completely agreed to open the first sitting of the full-dress talks in Pyongyang on August 30, 1972 and the second sitting of the talks in Seoul on September 13. This agreement was reached only after the discussions at the 24th sitting of the preliminary talks and the subsequent working-level talks and at the 25th sitting of the preliminary talks.

The Question of the Agenda of the Full-dress Talks: The deliberations on this question, the key point of discussion at the preliminary talks, encountered difficulties from the outset owing to the unjust, insincere attitude of the south Korean side. So, it took nearly 8 months until an agreement was reached on this question, as proposed by our side, after having 16 sittings of the preliminary talks and 13 sessions of the working-level talks.

The agenda items of the full-dress talks agreed upon and announced at the 20th sitting of the preliminary talks are as follows:

1. The question of finding out the addresses of the family members and relatives dispersed in the north and the south and ascertaining whether they are alive or dead and notifying the results;
2. The question of realizing free visits and free meetings between the family members and relatives dispersed in the north and the south;
3. The question of effecting free correspondence between the family members and relatives dispersed in the north and the south;

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Delegation heads of both sides shake hands promising to meet again in Pyongyang

Spokesman of the DPRK Red Cross Society Delegation Issues Statement

on Impossibility of Opening the Full-dress Talks on August 5

The spokesman of the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society issued on August 4 a statement in connection with the fact that it has become impossible to open the full-dress talks on August 5.

The statement said:

Now the entire Korean people are waiting for an early opening of the full-dress talks between the Red Cross organizations of north and south Korea.

As already known, the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society proposed at the last 23rd preliminary talks to open the full-dress talks on August 5 in order to bring the north and south Red Cross preliminary talks to an early conclusion and go over to the full-dress talks, and the south Korean side also agreed to it.

This proposal of our delegation reflects the ardent desire of the families and relatives separated from each other in the north and the south as well as the entire fellow countrymen to see the door of reunification open wide at an early date and fully accords with the ideal of the north-south joint statement for promoting the independent, peaceful reunification of the country.

Our delegation, proceeding from lofty compatriotism and humanitarian stand, has made all its efforts to speed up the talks with success from the first days and showed all sincerity to settle other procedural matters of the full-dress talks at an early date.

But, contrary to the hope of our side, the discussion of other procedural matters ran up against difficulties unexpectedly. Thus, it has become impossible to open the full-dress talks on August 5 as proposed by our side.

The delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society regrets that the full-dress talks are delayed behind the scheduled date and hopes the south Korean side will show a sincere attitude for an early conclusion of the preliminary talks.

Our delegation will do in all sincerity and make every effort in future too, as in the past, to come up to the expectation of the Korean people in the north and the south and promote the independent, peaceful reunification of the country in accordance with the three principles of the joint statement of the north and the south.

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Our side made, among other things, an important proposal for inviting the representatives of the political parties and public organizations of the north and the south to the initial meetings of the full-dress talks in Pyongyang and Seoul.

If the representatives of the political parties and public organizations of the north and the south could meet and greet each other and the opinions of persons of all circles could be heard and their cooperation enlisted with the full-dress talks as a momentum, as our side proposed, this would make a greater contribution to the solution of the humanitarian questions for the compatriots separated in the north and the south and to the realization of the peaceful reunification of the country and bring the significance of the talks itself into a bolder relief.

The head of the delegation of our side stressed that the efforts made by the delegation of our side for the successful progress of the preliminary talks were the expression of sincerity to live up to the expectation of the entire Korean people and the world peace-loving people for the north-south Red Cross talks and were the first step towards implementing the historic joint statement of the north and the south on actively supporting the north and south Red Cross talks.

He said that the past one year for preparing the full-dress talks convincingly proved once again that if the Koreans sit down together, they can remove distrust and misunderstanding and solve the internal questions of the nation independently without interference of outside forces.

Recalling that while the preliminary talks were going on, the north-south high-level talks were held and the historic joint statement of the north and the south in which the three principles of national reunification are clarified was published, he said: This means that while the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross organizations were progressing, the road of dialogue and contact was widened and a new breach was made in the barrier.

Then the head of the delegation referred to the heavy tasks facing the north and south Red Cross organizations today when the preliminary talks have been successfully concluded and the day of the full-dress talks is just round the corner.

He made it explicit, first of all, that the DPRK Red Cross Society would bend every possible effort to make the first and second sessions of the full-dress talks to be held in Pyongyang and Seoul a greatest event of the nation ever arranged in the past 27 years.

He declared that it would make active efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the compatriots caused by split by bringing to an early conclusion the discussion of the 5 items of the agenda at the full-dress talks.

With the closing speech of the head of the delegation of our side, the historic north-south Red Cross preliminary talks closed formally.

The delegates of the two sides congratulated each other with firm handshakes on the successful conclusion of the talks.

After a while, delegates of the two sides sat together in the lounge of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and exchanged their parting words.

They shared food prepared by both sides and conversed joyously, the lounge overflowing with the determination to work with might and main for the success of the full-dress talks and for the reunification of the country.

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4. The question of reuniting the family members dispersed in the north and the south according to their free will;
5. Other matters to be settled in a humanitarian way.

The Question of the Composition of the Delegations to the Full-dress Talks: The discussion on this question was held on three occasions, that is, from the 21st to the 23rd sitting of the preliminary talks.

Follow the agreed points regarding the composition of the delegations to the full-dress talks:

1. The two sides shall form the delegations to the full-dress talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross organizations respectively with seven members and definitively choose either chiefs or deputy chiefs of the north and south Korean Red Cross organizations as the heads of the delegations with their ranks being equivalent.
2. The two sides shall see that not more than seven advisers and 20 suite members accompany each delegation to the full-dress talks.

The two sides shall appoint the advisers as they think fit, and shall increase or decrease the number of the suites according to the need.

The Question of Other Procedural Matters: The deliberations on this question, the last subject of discussion at the preliminary talks, started at the 23rd sitting of the talks.

At the 24th sitting the convocation of the talks between working-level officials of both sides for discussion of other procedural matters was agreed upon as suggested by our side, and a complete agreement on other matters of procedure was made at the 25th sitting of the preliminary talks after discussions were held at the three sessions of the working-level talks.

As seen above, the preliminary talks for the arrangement of the full-dress talks carried out its task with success and thus contributed greatly to lessening the sufferings of the separated families and relatives scattered in the north and the south and to laying a stepping stone for the independent, peaceful reunification of the country, the pressing desire of the whole nation.